

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

September 16, 2003

On September 10, 2003 an unmanned Union Pacific train began to roll on its own eastward from Los Angeles; it traveled some distance before being stopped in East Los Angeles. This is a very disturbing development in the wake of the previous Union Pacific derailment that damaged homes and terrified residents last June.

Although Union Pacific did follow the interim notification protocols previously established with the Sheriff's Department, Union Pacific must be held accountable for developing effective, preventive measures to safeguard residents.

It is essential that corrective measures be immediately developed and implemented to prevent railroads from allowing unmanned train sections to de-link and run away, with the possibility of derailment and the attendant dangers to the surrounding communities. These runaway trains threaten not only adjacent residents, but also the broader region if trains are carrying hazardous materials.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Board of Supervisors instruct the Fire Department, Sheriff Department and the Office of Emergency Management to request a meeting with

MOTION

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

representatives from Union Pacific to develop measures to prevent runaway trains and minimize their impacts should they occur despite the implementation of those measures. These measures should include all feasible actions to minimize the risks to residents associated with derailments.

I, FURTHER MOVE that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad be requested to report on its safety measures and to cooperate in the development of similar notification protocols with the Sheriff's Department.

Furthermore, I request that the Board of Supervisors ask the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to conduct a complete audit of all Union Pacific safety measures and to assist the parties in the development of the protocols for avoiding runaway trains.

Additionally, I request the Board of Supervisors to seek appropriate legislation that requires railroads to develop measures to prevent future runaway trains and minimize the associated risks to our residents.

GH/jh